(vii) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up of the airports is being done in a phased manner.

(viii) Operational staff of Indian Airlines have been sensitized to the increased threat perception to Indian Airlines flights.

Expansion of Air Services in U.P.

†1221. PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in Uttar Pradesh from where Air Services are operated;

(b) what are the details of the remaining cities which are proposed to be connected by Air Services during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Agra, Dehradun, Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh are connected by air services of the Scheduled Airlines.

(b) and (c) Operators are free to operate on any route/to any place in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations on various category of routes.

Formation of Airports Regulatory Board

1222. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to constitute the Airports Regulatory Board;

(b) if so, what is the purpose of the same and how is it going to help better functioning of the Airports all over the country; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Airports Authority of India will become redundant or there will be duplication of Authority and create more Red Tapism in that case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) In the context of possible privatisation of airports in the country, the Government has received a suggestion to create a regulatory framework for airports independent of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. No concrete decision has so far been taken.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.